

Application S.N. 10/784,655
Amendment of November 30, 2006
Reply to Office Action of August 10, 2006

Amendments to the Specification

Please replace paragraph [0018] currently in the specification with the following paragraph:

[0018] As shown in Fig. 2, inner shoulder rib 30 defines a set of inner lateral grooves 38 which extend from the edge of shoulder 40 of tread 16 toward, but not all the way to, inner circumferential groove 20. In addition, shoulder rib 30 also defines multiple sipes 42 and 44 between adjacent pairs of inner lateral grooves 38 which extend all the way to inner circumferential groove 20. In the same way, outer shoulder rib 32 defines a set of outer lateral grooves 46 which extend from shoulder 48 of tread 16 toward, but not all the way to, outer circumferential groove 22. Similarly, outer shoulder rib 32 also defines multiple sipes 50 and 52 between adjacent pairs of outer lateral grooves 46 which extend all the way to outer circumferential groove 22. In the particular embodiment shown, inner lateral grooves 38 and sipes 42 and 44 in inner shoulder rib 30 (and outer lateral grooves 46 and sipes 50 and 52 in outer shoulder rib 32) are spaced such that the distance between inner lateral groove 38 and sipe 42 versus the distance between sipes 42 and 44 versus the distance between sipe 44 and the adjacent inner lateral groove 38 are in a ratio of 25/50/25 to 35/30/35. As can be seen from Fig. 2, no lateral groove in shoulder ribs 30 and 32 reaches circumferential grooves 20 and 22, respectively. As can also be seen in Fig. 2, the circumferential grooves are substantially straight grooves having substantially straight edges.